

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 8 with the following replacement paragraph:

-- As mentioned above, valve sleeve 5 has a tubular design and according to the present invention varies in its wall thickness in order to limit noise emissions. An inflow-side region 25 into which supply pipe 24 is inserted, has a heavier design than a downstream region 26. The wall thickness of valve sleeve 5 in the inflow-side region is approximately 0.5 mm, while the downstream region has a wall thickness of approximately 0.3 mm.. Figure 1 illustrates the wall thicknesses of valve sleeve 5 in a schematic manner. In this regard, the wall thicknesses of Figure 1 are not drawn to scale.--